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Message Text

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15 S
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 IO-13 SS-15 INR-07 NSC-05 /052 W
---------- 032313
R 180930Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3922

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINS HIS NON-ATTENDANCE AT NAM SUMMIT

REF: SINGAPORE 3687 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PRIME MINISTER LEE SENT AUGUST 17 FOLLOWING MESSAGE
TO MRS. BANDARANAIKE WHICH RELEASED TO PRESS SAME DAY:

QUOTE:

MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU ON A MOST SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF THE FIFTH NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE YESTERDAY AND ON YOUR WIDE-RANGING AND ELOQUENT SPEECH. IT WAS COUCHED IN THE LANGUAGED OF REASON. AS YOU SAID, WE DO NOT SEEK CONFRONTATION WITH THE DEVELOPED NATIONS OF THE WEST. I TRUST THEY WILL HEED YOUR WORDS.

URGENT WORK PREVENTS ME FROM LEAVING TODAY TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS I HAD INTENDED. I SHALL HAVE TO MISS THIS GREAT OCCASION. I HAVE ASKED MY COLLEAGUE, MR. S. RAJARATNAM, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO SPEAK ON MY BEHALF.

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WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE.

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UNQUOTE

END UNCLASSIFIED

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2. COMMENT: LEE'S MESSAGE WAS DESIGNED TO KEEP SINGAPORE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE NON-ALIGNED CLUB WITH MINIMAL OFFENSE TO WESTERN NATIONS. WE NOTICE FROM REPORTS OF NAM CONFERENCE FROM EMBASSY COLOMBO AS WELL AS FROM STORIES IN STRAITS TIMES THAT GOS HAS BEEN MAINTAINING A VERY LOW PROFILE AT THIS CONFERENCE EXCEPT FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO LAOTIAN EFFORT TO AMEND MALAYSIAN RESOLUTION ON ASEAN ZONE OF PEACE.

3. WE WISH TO ADVISE EMBASSY COLOMBO THAT GOS INFORMED THIS EMBASSY THAT IT WOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORT AT COLOMBO TO INTRODUCE THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. GOS ALSO SAID IT WOULD OPPOSE ONE-SIDED RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA HOSTILE TO ROK AND SAID IT WOULD SPEAK OUT AGAINST THEM IF THERE WAS APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY. IF SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY ARISES EMBASSY COLOMBO MAY WISH TO REMIND GOS DEL OF OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SINGAPORE'S POSITION ON THESE MATTERS.
HOLDRIDGE

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